

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 OPIC-12 AID-20 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRA, ETRD, OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COMMERCE MINISTER TO U.S.

REF: A. DACCA 4850 B. STATE 216820

1. KAMARUZZAMAN AND PARTY LEFT BANGLADESH ON SCHEDULE NOV. 9. SEEM OFF BY CHARGE AND FIRST SECRETARY. NEW YORK ARRIVAL TIME AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, SUNDAY, NOV. 11.

2. SINCE SECRETARY OF STATE NOT EXPECTED TO BE IN WASHINGTON WHEN MINISTER THERE, RECOMMEND THAT HE BE RECEIVED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BY ACTING SECRETARY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, KAMARUZZAMAN IS FIRST MINISTER OF BANGLADESH TO PAY VISIT TO U.S. (NOT IN TRANSIT TO WORLD BANK MEETINGS, ETC.). ALSO IS AMONG FIRST FOUR RANKING MINISTERS IN GOVT. CABINET REPORTEDLY MET NOV. 9 TO DISCUSS KAMARUZZAMAN'S TRIP, AND WE SUSPECT HE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH RAISING ISSUES BEYOND THOSE RELATING TO HIS COMMERCE PORTFOLIO. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THEREFORE HE BE GIVEN SUITABLY HIGH-LEVEL HEARING IN STATE AS WELL AS COMMERCE.

3. IN TALK WITH CHARGE AT RESIDENCE ON EVE OF DEPARTURE, KAMARUZZAMAN HINTED THAT ONE ISSUE HE MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS IS THE WELL-WORN ONE OF U.S. COMMODITY AID IN WHEAT, EDIBLE OILS, AND ALSO TALLOW.

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4. ON SAME OCCASION KAMARUZZAMAN ALSO DISCLOSED HE MIGHT

CHANGE PROGRAM BEING LAID OUT FOR HIM IN WASHINGTON/NEW YORK TO INCLUDE TRIP TO ATLANTA. THIS WOULD BE IN COMPANY KHURSHID ANWAR, CHAIRMAN, JUTE MILLS CORP., TO VISIT CARPET MANUFACTURERS THERE - MAJOR USERS OF CARPET BACKING, FOREMOST BD EXPORT TO U.S., NOW PLAGUED WITH WIDE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH A CHANGE IN A PROGRAM WHICH HAD TO BE SET UP AT LAST MINUTE WOULD BE MOST DISRUPTIVE AND ALSO POSSIBLE EMBARRASSING TO BANGLADESH. WHEN APPROACHED LATER FOR DETAILS OF ATLANTA TRIP, JOINT SECRETARY AHSAN ADVISED THAT HE KNEW ANWAR HAD PROPOSED SUCH A VISIT TO MINISTER BUT LATTER HAD NOT THEN RAISED MATTER WITH AHSAN. AHSAN HAD NOT REPEAT NOT ALERTED BANGLADESH EMBASSY ASKING PROGRAM BE CHANGED, AND DID NOT PROPOSE TO DO SO. INSTEAD HE HOPED WHEN MINISTER ARRIVES IN U.S. AND IS PRESENTED WITH PROGRAM WORKED OUT BY BD EMBASSY, KAMARUZZAMAN WILL BE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT IT AND NOT PRESS FURTHER FOR INCLUSION OF ATLANTA IN ITINERARY, UNLESS STAY IN U. S. CAN BE EXTENDED. THIS UNLIKELY IN VIEW COMMITMENTS AFTER U.S. IN UK.

5. (SHOULD A VISIT TO ATLANTA BECOME FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT REMINDED THAT BANGLADESH HAS PARTICULAR FRIEND THERE IN MRS. JEANNE FERST, MEMBER OF PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY PANEL ON SOUTH ASIAN RELIEF ASSISTANCE, WHICH VISITED HERE SEPT. 1972.)
NEWBERRY

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